

1 1. A method of fabricating a fixture having a seamless depression
2 capable of holding a liquid, utilizing a thermoforming process, said
3 method comprising the steps of:

4 a) placing a single sheet of heated, malleable, "solid surface"
5 material in a vacuum mold;

6 b) creating a vacuum within the vacuum mold in order to deform
7 the material into a shape having a substantially seamless three-
8 dimensional depression or projection capable of holding a liquid;

9 c) allowing the deformed material of step (b) to cool to a
10 substantially rigid shape; and

11 d) removing the substantially rigidly shaped material from said
12 vacuum mold.

1 2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the vacuum
2 created in step (b) deforms the "solid surface" material to substantially
3 its final shape.

1 3. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said
2 deformed material comprises a flange portion, and wherein the method
3 further comprises the step of:

4 e) constraining the material about said flange portion prior to
5 and during said vacuum creating step (b).

1 4. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said "solid
2 surface" material comprises acrylic plastic.

1 5. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said "solid
2 surface" material comprises acrylic plastic and approximately between
3 20 and 85 percent aluminum trihydrate filler by weight.

1 6. The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 e) bonding said rigidly shaped material of step (d) to another
4 component.

1 7. The method in accordance with claim 6, wherein said another
2 component comprises one of the group: countertop, curb, other
3 assembly feature.

1 8. An article fabricated in accordance with claim 1.

1 9. The article fabricated in accordance with claim 8, comprising
2 a shower pan.

1 10. The article fabricated in accordance with claim 8, comprising
2 a bowl.

1 11. The article fabricated in accordance with claim 8, comprising
2 any article having a depression or projection in a "solid surface"
3 material suitable for holding a liquid.

1 12. A method of fabricating a fixture having a seamless
2 depression capable of holding a liquid, utilizing a thermoforming
3 process, said method comprising the steps of:

4 a) sizing a single sheet of "solid surface" material;

5 b) heating and placing said sized, single sheet of "solid surface"
6 material of step (a) in a vacuum mold;

7 c) creating a vacuum within the vacuum mold in order to deform
8 the material into a shape having a substantially seamless three-
9 dimensional depression or projection capable of holding a liquid;

10 d) allowing the deformed material of step (c) to cool to a
11 substantially rigid shape; and

12 e) removing the substantially rigidly shaped material from said
13 vacuum mold.

1 13. The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein the vacuum
2 created in step (c) deforms the "solid surface" material to substantially
3 its final shape.

1 14. The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said
2 deformed material comprises a flange portion, and wherein the method
3 further comprises the step of:

4 f) constraining the material about said flange portion, prior to
5 and after said vacuum creating step (c).

1 15. The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said "solid
2 surface" material comprises acrylic plastic.

1 16. The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said "solid
2 surface" material comprises acrylic plastic and approximately between
3 20 and 85 percent aluminum trihydrate filler by weight.

1 17. The method in accordance with claim 12, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 f) bonding said rigidly shaped material of step (e) to another
4 component.

1 18. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein said
2 another component comprises one of the group: countertop, curb, other
3 assembly feature.

1 19. An article fabricated in accordance with claim 12.

1 20. The article fabricated in accordance with claim 19,
2 comprising a shower pan.

1 21. The article fabricated in accordance with claim 19,
2 comprising a bowl.

1 22. The article fabricated in accordance with claim 12,
2 comprising any article having a depression or projection in a "solid
3 surface" material suitable for holding a liquid.